

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on February 4, 2000
Hall 769 10:00am SGW Campus

Present: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. A. Beedassy, Mr. R. Boncore, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. J. Di Benedetto, Ms M. Drew, Ms J. Fowler, Mr. P. Gilmore, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. C. Jacob, Ms A. Kerby, Ms T. Ryan, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. P. Taylor, Mr H. Zarins, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. W. Curran, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

Absent with Regrets: Ms J. Calder, Dr. J. Jans, Ms. S. Navidad, Mr. D. Prejli, Ms K. Hedrich, Mr. R. MacIver, Mr. P. Aube

Delegates: Ms C. Hedrich represented Ms G. Korn

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Côté, moved that item 4.3 (Accessibility Motion) be moved further down on the agenda to #6 (Student Life Issues) as Mr. Gilmore, the presenter of the motion, will be late.

The Motion as amended was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert confirmed that the concerns raised at CCSL concerning the Profile of An Ideal Candidate – Vice-Rector Services were passed on to the Search Committee for their consideration. A copy of Dr. Boisvert's letter was distributed to Council. As well, Dr. Boisvert was pleased to announce that funding to assist the Fine Arts Reading Room has been provided from the Student Services budget on behalf of CCSL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 1999

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms T. Ryan.

The Motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Student Participation in University Governance: The committee was not prepared to report back to Council at this time. Dr. Boisvert indicated that the report should be ready for the March CCSL meeting.

4.2 Draft Policy on Demonstration: Mr. Taylor moved to table the discussion on the draft policy for the March CCSL meeting. The CSU will prepare a formal response to the policy, taking into account the issues that were raised at the December meeting of Council.

4.3 Accessibility Motion: As agreed, the motion will be discussed under Student Life Issues.

4.4 Webster Library Pilot Project Update: Mr. Curran distributed to Council statistics on the usage of the Library during the period it was open 24 hours a day. He was pleased to report that the project was very successful and well received. He

pointed out that the statistics show the usage low between 2:00am and 6:00am. However, as the statistics in the handouts reflect only the " turnstiles" they are not the most reliable. As there is a recognized need for this service, Mr. Curran announced that service will be repeated again in April with the same conditions applying. The dates will be confirmed for the March CCSL meeting. Dr. Boisvert noted that the response from the students has been positive and he thanked Mr. Curran for this innovative initiative.

5. Reports

5.1 Advocacy & Support Services: Ms Kerby explained Advocacy & Support Services came into being with the reorganization of Student Services in 1991. Advocacy & Support Services is comprised of the following services: International Student Office, Campus Ministry, Legal Information Services, Services for Disabled Students, Centre for Native Education and Peer Support Programme and Student Advocate Programme. She spoke briefly about each area. These diverse services strive to meet the varying needs of our changing student population and to respond effectively to their concerns. Dr. Shaver felt strongly that it was important to bridge the gap between the service sector and the academic sector to ensure that the faculty are aware of the various services that are in place to assist and support students. Dr. Boisvert thanked Ms Kerby for an informative presentation.

As a variety of assessment projects are being initiated in Student Services, Dr. Boisvert asked Mr. Côté to report to Council on these for the March CCSL meeting.

Mr. Jacob indicated he would like to have a presentation from the Vice-Rector, Services. Dr. Boisvert said that as the findings of the Search Committee for the position of Vice Rector, Services would be public shortly, he felt it was advisable to wait until the decision was public before issuing an invitation to speak at the April CCSL meeting. As the mandate of the Vice-Rector, Services encompasses many services, he asked Mr. Jacob to get back to him on the issues he would like the Vice-Rector to address.

6. Student Life Issues

Mr. Jacob spoke briefly about the CSU's General Assembly and the Canada Wide Day of Action. The student caucus took note that the University administration responded to their demands and issues seriously and negotiated fairly. The vote was unanimous to accept the University's offer and will be ratified at the next CSU Council meeting. Briefly the outcome was:

- Defer for one year the increase to the administrative fee
- Commit 20% of new undesignated government funding to reduce the fee
- University will exempt student clubs from the Marriott exclusivity contract as of September 2000
- Special Task Force will be established to review how external representatives are appointed to Board of Governors (BOG)

Concern was expressed by the student caucus on the current composition of the Board of Governors which they felt was impacted by the interests of corporations in education. Mr. Jacob felt more involvement with BOG from the university community was necessary. Mr. Taylor was disappointed that the composition of the BOG Task Force would be decided by BOG itself. However he felt it was a step in the right direction. Ms Ryan asked if there would be student representation on the committee. Mr. Taylor replied it was his understanding that BOG would appoint a student to the task force.

Ms Lipscombe spoke briefly about the sweatshop issue. The Eastern Association of College Stores is looking at the feasibility of developing a Code of Ethics with respect to this problem. She felt it was important for the association to be sensitive to these issues and ensure that they are dealt with. If developed, the Code of Ethics would be circulated to Colleges and Universities in the hopes they would adopt them. Mr. Taylor applauded this initiative and mentioned that Qpirg is also involved in the issue of anti-sweatshops.

Ms Fowler took the opportunity to thank CCSL for its financial assistance. She said the results are immediate and tangible. She invited Council to drop by VA 407 and see the space. With anticipated renovations being completed in the next few months, there should be an amazing difference.

Mr. Jacob informed Council that a series of workshops has been initiated geared towards informing and educating student groups on a variety of issues including University policies and services, the role of student government and the development of leadership skills. He thanked Dr. Graub for her assistance with the workshops. Dr. Graub reiterated that this type of student initiative is difficult to get off the ground and she complimented the CSU on their endeavor. Mr. Jacob informed Council that both Dr. Boisvert and Mr. Côté had agreed to partake in upcoming workshops.

As Mr. Gilmore was now present, Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the accessibility motions before them. As Council had just received the amended motion from Mr. Gilmore there was not sufficient time to review the motion. Dr. Boisvert suggested that discussion by Council on the motions should be deferred to the March CCSL meeting. However, he asked both Ms Kerby and Mr. Gilmore to speak briefly to their motions.

Mr. Gilmore felt there were many factors that hinder students with a disability in an academic environment, with the end-result that students sometimes fall through the cracks. This motion will create a sub-committee of CCSL to help ensure an excellent quality of life for disabled students at Concordia. This committee would be composed of representatives from student services and support services, as well as undergraduate and graduate students with different disabilities. Dealing with all issues that affect disabled students, the mandate of this sub-committee would be to make recommendations to CCSL as well as receive and analyze grievances or suggestions from disabled students. Attached to Mr. Gilmore's motion was a copy of the NEADS presentation to the Senate Subcommittee on Post-Secondary Education which he felt was an important "model". Mr. Gilmore felt strongly that through this sub-committee a "safety net" could be established with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of disabled students at Concordia.

Ms Kerby explained her motion calls for a "working group" to be created to report to CCSL on the issues of disability at Concordia. She explained that having a "standing item" on the monthly agenda of CCSL instead of creating another sub-committee was an efficient use of time, people and resources. More importantly, it ensured that disability issues could be dealt with on a regular basis in a forum that was sensitive to the needs of the community and in a forum that reflected input from both the academic and non-academic sectors of the university. Ms Kerby explained she had met with the President of NEADS to explain what the mandate of CCSL was and he was in agreement with this motion. She felt that as the University moves into a new stage of building and space plans, it was imperative to have a process in place to

ensure that the needs of students with disabilities are not only accommodated but also understood. Ms Kerby felt that both motions were similar in spirit but the differences lay in the process and the mandate.

Dr. Boisvert informed Council he had some concerns with respect to the motion tabled by Mr. Gilmore. He explained that his comments were made not as Chair of CCSL but as Dean of Students. He referred Council to Page I, the last BIR that referred to "...receiving and analyzing grievances and/or suggestions from disabled students, and, in turn, reporting their findings to CCSL". Dr. Boisvert explained that historically CCSL has never undertaken that role. The University has in place internal policies that deal with the issue of grievances. On Page 2, the 3rd BIR "...The purpose of this clause is to insure that the Sub-Committee is free to come up with its own findings and recommendations, and not be guided by the agenda of Advocacy & Support Services to whom Services for Disabled Students is subordinate". Dr. Boisvert suggested that the tone and language were inappropriate. He reiterated that the motions would be on the agenda for discussion and decision at the March meeting.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

The Board is pleased to make the following announcements:

- \$200,000 was accepted from the Loyola High School towards Recreation & Athletics facility improvement.
- the Loyola arena has been named in honour of Ed Meagher. Mr. Meagher has a long history of involvement as a beloved coach not only with the Loyola High School but also with Loyola College.
- a fitness centre facility is on the books for the SGW Campus.
- Mr. Zarins in conjunction with Mr. Zsolnay, Executive Director of Advancement, is working on a fundraising plan
- With the assistance of the City of Montreal, funding has been secured for the re-surfacing of the Athletic Fields

Ms Kerby announced that the Recreation and Athletics Budget was tabled today for discussion at the March CCSL meeting. Mr. Zarins will speak to his proposed budget at that meeting. However should there be any questions, he encouraged Council members to contact him directly.

The Motion to finalize the process of separating the Recreation and Athletics fee from the Student Services fee was distributed to Council. Ms Kerby informed Council that this motion had been approved and passed by the Recreation & Athletics Board. The separation of fee was actually approved by CCSL three years ago but the University has had difficulty in implementing this. This motion is to finalize the process and ensure that the separation of fee is implemented for the 2000-2003 Budget Period. The Motion moved by Ms Kerby and seconded by Mr. Zarins was put before Council.

The Motion was carried unanimously

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Appointments to CCSL Awards Selection Committee: Dr. Boisvert announced that the annual CCSL Awards Night would be held Friday, April 7th at 5pm

at the SGW Faculty Club. The following appointments to the committee were approved:

Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair
Mr. C. Jacobs, undergraduate representative
Mr. P. Taylor, undergraduate representative
Ms T. Ryan, graduate representative
Mr. B. Boncore, staff representative
Dr. F. Shaver, faculty representative

The arrangements for the awards night as well as the advance publicity for the event will be handled by the Dean of Students Office.

8.2. Tabling of Student Services Operating Budget, 2000-03

Dr Boisvert drew Council's attention to the proposed Student Services Budget tabled at today's meeting for discussion in March. He was happy to report there was no increase in the Student Services fee. He and the Student Services directors were confident that the services could be preserved and enhanced while maintaining the fee level.

9. NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 3rd, 2000 10:00am Loyola AD 131

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Ryan and seconded by Ms Drew.

The Motion was carried unanimously